Finch & Co



FRENCH EROTIC PRESSED BURR MAPLE SNUFF BOX

A FRENCH EROTIC PRESSED BURR MAPLE SNUFF BOX THE LID WITH A RURAL COUNTRY SCENE ENTITLED 'FETE FLAMANDE' THE TORTOISESHELL LINED INTERIOR CONCEALING A SECRET COMPARTMENT CONTAINING A MINIATURE PAINTING ON IVORY OF AN EXPLICIT AMOROUS SCENE

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

Â€¨SIZE: 2CM HIGH, 8CM DIA. - ¾ INS HIGH, 3¼ INS DIA.

Â€¨SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO.12, ITEM NO.17, FOR ANOTHER FRENCH EROTIC BOX

LITERATURE

AT CHAPAULIEU DE CLERMONT IN THE AUVERGNE THERE IS A CURIOUSLY LARGE PHALLIC SHAPED ROCK KNOWN AS SAINT-FOUTIN. LOCAL CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IT TO BE A STATUE OF ST FOUTIN AND THAT HE WAS THE FIRST BISHOP OF LYONS. THE JOURNAL OF KING HENRY III REFERS TO A CULT OF ST FOUTIN ACROSS MOST OF FRANCE AND WORSHIP OF THE SAINT INCLUDED THE USE OF MALE AND FEMALE SEX EMBLEMS MADE OF WAX. 'FOUTIN' MEANS 'COPULATION' AND THE PRACTISES OF THE EARLY CHURCH WERE CLEARLY INFLUENCED BY CELTIC AND GAULISH CONVERTS WHO WERE ACCUSTOMED TO THE PHALLIC SYMBOLISM PREVALENT UNDER THE ROMAN EMPIRE.